

Illinois Traffic Records Coordinating Committee  
March 2, 2009

Attending: Mehdi Nassirpour, Dan Mueller, Jeff Darko, John Werthwein, Lori Midden, Peggy Westerfield, Jim Garceau, Jacque Huddleston, Joyce Schroeder, Greg Piland, Michael Handley, Miles Anderson, Lisa Goodwin, Sherri Akers, Dave Gruenfelder, Jessica Baker, Sandy Klein, Michael Stout, John Jones

Due to a network problem, teleconferencing was not available.

Michael Stout opened the meeting and complimented the committee on their efforts, especially with the 408 grant. John Werthwein made a motion and Jessica Baker seconded the minutes which were approved.

Greg Piland reported that traffic records can be funded through the stimulus package; however it will require TIF or STIF agreement to process. The \$650 million funding will go through IDOT Office of Planning and Programming and there are 120 days to be working and within a year all of the program must be running. If not, the money goes back to DC to be re-distributed to other states. Greg offered to assist. Traffic records are "shovel ready."

Safety Data Mart update was presented by Peggy Westerfield

IDOT External Partner Collaboration Portal Update

- A county engineer internet site was created that lists the most commonly used functionalities by the county engineers.
- The Internet site was published and was functional as of 12/22/08
- Met with the County Engineers Technology Committee on feedback of the Internet site and they are very happy
- The SDM External user link is available from this site

Safety Data Mart –Reports for External Users

Webpage – to facilitate enrollment and house the log-in area.

New Reports added:

- City Summary – a variety of aspects for a single year's data. Person, Crash, Vehicle perspectives.
- County Parameters reports for: Road Surface, Work zone, Motorcycle, Deer, and Contributory Cause.
- Report Ideas/Focus areas can be submitted through Traffic Safety.

FARS Analysis

- Evaluated two sections: FARS Reports and FARS Query ASP.NET applications. Reviewed code to understand the data structures and business logic required to access that data.
- Ability to support volume / switch to all crashes.
- Level of Effort for Conversion – estimated that only save 10-15% of overall effort required.

Multiple Databases per year;

Structure is very different (differentiation on Driver)

Overlap between FARS' Report and Query applications.

No access control, to provide for security.

- Exploring another technology option (RIA-Rich Internet Application) that supports a rich client experience by using a browser plug-in. Benefits of rich client experience, along with web-based deployment. Programming model – less emphasis on data persistence and data access.

SDM2 – New Map Tool within Excel

Testing Map with 6-8 users; finalizing deployment for internal to IDOT.

Local Safety Services – Project initiated to transition University of Illinois Application to be hosted on IDOT servers. Currently waiting receipt of source code.

Mehdi inquired about outside queries--what kinds of details are available for outside queries. Peggy explained that targeted areas – date/county/severity. Also, topical areas—work zone, motorcycle, etc. Do you track how often data is accessed? CMS controls the site and she has not inquired lately.

CODES Update --Mehdi gave the CODES update. Susan Fitzpatrick was going to call in. Working on 2005 crash data and prepare them to link to link to hospital discharge and trauma registry data. Hospital data is not adequate. Susan will be going to an 80% work schedule and Mehdi is looking to fill a contractual position to fill the gap.

SafetyAnalyst—Midwest Business Group has made many improvements to the “Safety Analyst” software and will be offering 2-3 training sessions in Illinois. FHWA will be transferring program to AASHTO within the next year. Committee will be notified of training opportunities. 2006-07 data will be used for better location data. Will be setting up a meeting with BIP and Priscilla to update. U of I has developed the safety function and training to coordinate with U of I, IDOT and FHWA.

MCR/CIS/AIS report was given by Jim Garceau

#### **MCR**

- Made system wide changes in support for House Bill 5907 which went into effect 1/1/2009. This law raised the minimum reporting threshold from \$500 to \$1500 when crashes involved only insured drivers. Client updates were made available in December.
- Working on supporting rollout of MCR
- Created a delete utility for the MCR Support group per the Illinois Office of Internal Audit findings when the V2 client was audited back in May of last year.
  - This allows the level 1 support team to delete crash reports from the database in a windows “trash can” scenario.
  - The tool can also return a deleted crash report to the database as needed
  - Utility also gives a view of the production system so level 1 support team can check on status of the production and QA servers.
- Dev team is working on a couple of patches for the v1.x client for those agencies unwilling or unable to upgrade to the V2 client
  - First patch is to remove the legalese from the bottom of the drivers exchange information form – it still had the \$500 limit statement on it.

- Second patch adds support for the small format printer that is being used by some agencies for their electronic citation solutions. We have completed development on support for the Seiko printer (which we are hoping will also work for the Zebra printer but haven't got the loaner printer to test with yet).
- Third patch is to allow MCR to run with the IE7 browser.
- These patches are in QA/field test and should be generally available from the MCR Support staff soon.

### CIS

- Updates were made to support the change in minimum reporting threshold by HB5907
- Changes being made to get ready for the integration with the newly updated imaging system (AIS)
- Once the integration is complete, we will look into Integrating CIS with both FARS and SafetyNet.

### AIS

- Major problems working with the current archive system. The optical juke boxes that are at the heart of the archives are pretty unstable and getting the crash documents off it is taking much longer than anyone anticipated.
- A new design has been implemented and being tested that will allow DTS to go live in early April.
  - The new design will scan all new documents into the CIS system so the optical juke boxes will become a read-only system.
  - As people need documents from the old archive system they will be "converted on the fly"
  - DTS will continue to convert images in the background
- Once the new upgrade is in production, we will look into redacting crash reports so they can be made available per the passing of Senate Bill 2391 last summer. This law allows local agencies to request crash information for doing traffic studies like the State and Federal agencies do.

MCR Update was given by Michael Handley.

MCR marketing employee has resigned and he is looking for a replacement--working with UIS. Michael indicated that Jim gave the update on the programming for MCR. – Version 2- , updates to 1.7 to assist people with the Seiko and Zebra printers that are using citations on the 1.7 updates. He hopes this will be our last update for Version 1. Best year—115,000 reports electronically in 2008. In December there were 15,000 electronically submitted. In January we received 12,000 MCR reports and look forward to increasing this year.

Attended a meeting with Kathryn Kolb and others from Chicago crash reporting groups, Chicago is still very interested in working with a web based MCR version. Will be finalizing. Main goal is to work with Chicago to capture the 120,000 crash reports. ISP has 60,000 records captured electronically which represents 98% of their records.

Next meeting with Chicago group will be this week—a continuation of last meeting.

Crash Reports update was reported by Jessica Baker.

- Data Entry is working December 2008 reports.
- 42 days behind the date of the crash
- Data Entry will finish 2008 in Data Entry by March 13.
- Last year Data Entry finished 2007 crash reports on February 9, 2008.
- Location is working November 2008 reports.
- 63 days behind the date of the crash
- Location will finish 2008 at the end of April.
- Last year Location finished 2007 crash reports at the end of March/first part of April 2008.
- Case Prep is scanning in real time
- Safety Responsibility is working November 2008 cases.

**\*\*Note**—We are only a month behind where we were last year in Data Entry and Location and we have fewer people working in these units.

Safety Engineering update

Local Safety Services Project-  
System development is completed from U of I.  
BIP is in the process of moving to CMS servers.

Local Crash Location Project-  
Lake and Union counties are complete.  
Cook County is still pending.

Trauma Registry Data and NEMSIS Project --Dan Lee sent the following report on the project at IDPH. We are currently immersed in Phase One of this project, which is focused on attaining NEMSIS compliance for Illinois. Of the five dimensions you listed, completion of this phase will mainly provide improvements in the areas of Accuracy, Consistency, and Accessibility at the state and national levels. To further support these three dimensions, a comprehensive data dictionary and a statewide training program will be delivered before the upgrade is launched.

Phase Two, which involves creating a web-based submission option, will support all five of the dimensions, including Timeliness and Completeness. Please keep me up-to-date re the status of 408 funding for Phase 2.

More detailed information about recent accomplishments related to this project, its current status, and planned work can be found in the attached update, which is a slight revision of the 4th quarter 2008 update submitted to IDPH-IT, CMS, and IDOT (John W).

For more information about what each of the two phases of this project entails please refer to the original 408 grant proposal from April of 2007.

Electronic Vital Events Update was provided by Dan Pippin. The Electronic Death Registration System has been implemented in 47 counties and by the end of this March; it should be implemented in approximately 62 counties. Cook County is scheduled for training and implementation during April and May. Reporting features of the EDRS have not been implemented at this time but after successfully implementing EDRS in all 102 we will revisit those tasks.

ISP Citations Data Update--Sherri Akers introduced Lisa Goodwin who gave an update on the citation data.

Preliminary update was completed with a limited number of stakeholders. Defining requirements, looking at new hardware and infrastructure requirement including encrypting data in officer cars as well as digital signature for citations. Researched hardware and software. Met with the Indiana State Police to collect information from their citation systems. Mehdi asked about data bases at ISP and SOS, where will the retrieval starts. Lisa explained that there is an enterprise-wide disposition of data from the courts. Primary focus is for ISP but will go statewide. SOS only has conviction and supervision data. State Police is only tracking their citations. Lisa hopes to expand this to all tickets.

ISP Crash Reconstruction--Jeff Darko gave a crash reconstruction unit presentation . He discussed the improvements especially in regards to the "black box" of the vehicle. He demonstrated how the equipment will retrieve and download information from the box to the officer's laptop. He explained that while this is a great tool, there still needs to be officers on the site of the crash to complete the report, citing actual physical evidence. Jeff has a goal for training officers, with 25 currently being trained on this retrieval system. He then described a new tool from BOSCH which will help complete help MCR data become more accurate. Cost is a big factor with this product.

Joyce Schroder inquired if IDOT reconstructionists are getting ISP training-which they are. Lori asked what percentages of cars have the "black box?" Jeff replied that mostly American-made cars are equipped. There will be a federal mandate in 2013 that will require data must be accessible/readable.

Mehdi wondered how this information can help with the quality of data. Jeff explained that training troopers will provide more accurate/complete data on reports. This should enable troopers to go back and update the unknowns due to trips to hospital, etc.

Human Factors Subcommittee has not met.

Information Systems Subcommittee has not met.

Data Quality Subcommittee--In Lou Humphrey's absence, Lori requested the committee review the new crash report form and return any suggestions/corrections/additions for 2010 to Lou by April 15.

## Engineering Factors Subcommittee

There is a TAG meeting scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>.  
We are hosting a National Safety Performance  
Function Summit in Chicago, July 28-30<sup>th</sup>, details pending.

Mike Stout asked the committee for ways to improve our group. Greg Piland suggested that subcommittee use the strategic plan more, but on the national level, Illinois' TRCC is doing fine.

Mike asked Peggy how much participation the safety data mart is getting from the local level and suggested a meeting to reach out to county engineers.

Lori will be sending the inventory update. She reminded the group that grant proposal updates for 408 grants must be sent to her by March 20. She would also like updates for current projects on the TS 409 forms as soon as possible.  
Greg inquired if everyone has the data strategic plan and if they are comfortable with the content. He suggested meeting to discuss and update.

Mehdi announced that GHSA and NTHSA are working on standard performance measures for all traffic records (Crash data, Roadway data, Driver, Vehicle, EMS, Hospital data, and Court data). He attended and worked as an expert panel member on the performance measures and expects to have a preliminary version of the report for the committee members to review and comment. The performance measures' white paper will be available sometime in May 2009. The final performance measures will be done before October 2009.

John Werthwein mentioned that he, Mehdi and Lori will be attending a NHTSA regional training program on Section 408 funding and reporting next week in Olympia Fields.

Next meeting will be May 18, 2008.